

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1993

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL ROUNDUP

REF: LISBON 1275 (NOTAL)

1. ELECTORAL DEVELOPMENTS:

A) THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT PORTUGAL DREW LOTS MARCH 8 TO SELECT THE ORDER IN WHICH THE PARTIES WILL APPEAR ON THE BALLOT APRIL 12. IN LISBON THE MONARCHISTS AND THE CDS-PDC COALITION DREW FIRST AND SECONT PLACE, THE PCP AND FEC-ML THE LAST TWO PLACES.

B) THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS PUBLISHED A LAW REGULATING EMIGRANT VOTING IN THE PORTUGUESE CONSULATES. THIS LAW STATES THAT EMIGRANTS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY ONE DEPUTY; THAT VOTING WILL BE IN PERSON AT THE CONSULATE; AND THAT

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PARTIES HAVE UNTIL MARCH 10 TO NOTIFY LISBON JUDICIAL

AUTHORITIES OF THE NAME OF THEIR EMIGRANT CANDIDATE.

2. UDP HOLDS CONGRESS:

THE UNIAO DEMOCRATICA POPULAR - UDP -, A COALITION OF MARXIST-LENINIST GROUPS, HELD ITS FIRST CONGRESS OVER THE PAST WEEKEND. THE 450 DELEGATES ELECTED A 22-MAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE, APPROVED UDP PROGRAM AND STATUTES, AND STATED THAT UDP DEPUTIES IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL BE "REVOLUTIONARY AGITATORS SENT INTO THE MIDST OF THE ENEMY TO SABOTAGE THE TRICKY MANEUVERS AGAINST THE PEOPLE." THE UDP INVITED NO OTHER PARTIES TO ITS CONGRESS. UDP SPEAKERS CRITICIZED AS ADVENTURERS PCP, MRPP, AND THE OTHER MARXIST-LENINIST COALITIONS. PARTY BROACHED FUTURE POSSIBILITY OF FORMATION OF A BROAD TACTICAL FRONT WITH OTHER FAR LEFTISTS SUCH AS MES, PRP-BR, AND LUAR. UDP STATED, HOWEVER, THAT CERTAIN UNSPECIFIED CONDITIONS ARE PREREQUISITE AND UNITY IS NOT YET POSSIBLE. UDP NEVERTHELESS SAID A BASIC OPERATING PRINCIPLE SHOULD BE "ATTACK TOGETHER, WHEN POSSIBLE, BUT MARCH SEPARATELY."

3. FAR LEFTIST PARTIES SEIZE HEADQUARTERS:

FIVE FAR LEFTIST PARTIES HAVE SEIZED BUILDINGS DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS FOR USE AS HEADQUARTERS: PUI, MES, REVOLUTIONARY BRIGADES (PRP-BR), MANUEL SERRA'S FSP, AND THE LCI. IN MOST CASES THE BUILDINGS HAD LONG BEEN ABANDONED AND WERE SIMPLY APPROPRIATED BY PARTY MILITANTS. THE FSP HAS SEIZED OTHER BUILDINGS FOR "USE OF THE PEOPLE" RECENTLY. IT ESTABLISHED A PEOPLE'S HOSPITAL IN SUBURB OF PAREDE, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ELSEWHERE. THE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT INTERVENED TO PREVENT THESE SEIZURES, AND IN ONE CASE APPARENTLY WORKED OUT SATISFACTORY INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE OWNERS AND PARTY MILITANTS.

4. CUNHAL BIDS FOR COOPERATION WITH SOCIALISTS:

IN A SPEECH MARCH 8 BEFORE MEMBERS OF NEWLY ESTABLISHED UNION OF COMMUNIST YOUTH ALVARO CUNHAL MADE ONE OF MOST DIRECT BIDS TO DATE FOR COOPERATION WITH THE SOCIALISTS. HE SAID THAT PCP WILLING TO CEASE PUBLIC POLEMIC WITH PS BUT THAT TIME OF THE ESSENCE. COOPERATION POSSIBLE TODAY, BUT IF THE SITUATION DETERIORATES "IN A FEW DAYS IT WILL BE EXTRAORDINARILY MORE DIFFICULT" TO FIND WAYS TO COOPERATE WITH SOCIALISTS.

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CUNHAL SUGGESTED THAT PS AND PCP LEADERS MEET TO EXAMINE PROBLEMS AND WORK OUT MODALITIES OF CLOSER RELATIONS.

5. PPD AND CDS LEADERS HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT MEMBERS OF THE PCP AND MDP/CDE, WITHOUT IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES, HAVE BEEN TELLING POTENTIAL NON-COMMUNIST VOTERS IN NORTH AND IN SETUBAL AREA THAT ON ELECTION DAY THEY SHOULD MARK THEIR BALLOTS FOR THE PARTY THEY CHOOSE, AND THEN CROSS OUT THE COMMUNIST PARTY TO

INDICATE THEIR OPPOSITION TO THAT PARTY. RESULT OF SUCH DOUBLE
MARKING WOULD BE NULLIFICATION OF BALLOT.
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